



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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March 24, 2005

**NEWS RELEASE**

Patrick L. Meehan, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, today announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> against Burnie Tindale, a/k/a "Big Nasty," a/k/a "Malik Nowlin," charging him with conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States, that is, armed bank robbery and use of firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence, specifically, armed bank robbery. The indictment charges that Tindale and others known and unknown to the grand jury conspired to rob the Artisans Bank, at 4901 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, Delaware on April 14, 2004, the Citizens Bank, 5001 Edgmont Avenue, Brookhaven, Pennsylvania on June 15, 2004, and the M & T Bank, 489 Bristol Pike, Andalusia, Pennsylvania on September 27, 2004, of money by use of force, threats of force and violence, and the use of handguns. Tindale is also charged with three counts of armed bank robbery and three counts of use of a firearm in furtherance of the commission of a crime of violence, in connection with the three armed bank robberies noted above. The indictment alleges that Tindale committed the three bank robberies with one to two other unnamed individuals who are not charged in the indictment. The indictment charges that Tindale and the other perpetrators carried and brandished firearms, wore hats, gloves and face coverings, and gained admission to the banks shortly after they opened for daily business to commit the robberies; that either Tindale or one of the other perpetrators took control of the banks at gunpoint, corralled bank employees and customers into either bank vault areas or inner bank offices, and gained entry to the vault area from bank personnel with access keys. It is charged that one of the perpetrators, on occasion Burnie Tindale, vaulted the teller counter to gain access to cash in teller drawers, while other perpetrators controlled the main lobby of the banks. The indictment states that Tindale and the other perpetrators then forced employees at gunpoint to open the banks' vaults in order to gain access to substantial sums of cash. According to the indictment, Tindale and the other perpetrators gathered cash from inside the bank vaults and from teller drawers, and put the money in plastic bags, which on occasion were taken from bank trash receptacles.

The indictment states that Tindale and others forced bank employees and customers to go into either the vault area or bank offices, and restrained them inside those locations, and then escaped. The indictment states that the robbers escaped from at least two of the banks in stolen getaway vehicles which were subsequently abandoned, and used "switch" vehicles parked at apartment complex locations located less than one mile from each of the banks to complete their escape.

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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The indictment states that the banks suffered losses as follows:

Artisans Bank  
4901 Kirkwood Highway  
Wilmington, Delaware  
Loss – \$46,114

Citizens Bank  
5001 Edgmont Avenue  
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania  
Loss – \$52,935

M & T Bank  
489 Bristol Pike  
Andalusia, Pennsylvania  
Loss – \$76,254

If convicted of the offenses charged, the defendant faces 137 years imprisonment, including an aggregate mandatory minimum term of 57 years imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, a fine of \$1,750,000 and a special assessment of \$700. The indictment also seeks criminal forfeiture of firearms and ammunition used in the charged offenses.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia Division, Violent Crimes Task Force, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Police Department, Major Crimes Section, Delaware State Police Troop 2, Bensalem Police Department, Darby Borough Police Department and the Brookhaven Police Department.

The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. Labrum, III

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Burnie Tindale	Clarendon Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Age 32

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